

## **AGP-31. PATENT RIGHTS - RETENTION BY THE CONTRACTOR (SHORT FORM)**

### **(a) Definitions.**

- (1) "Invention" means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectible under Title 35 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) or any novel variety of plant which is or may be protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.).
- (2) "Subject Invention" means any invention of the Contractor conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under this Contract, provided that in the case of a variety of plant, the date of determination (as defined in section 41(d) of the Plant Variety Protection Act, 7 U.S.C. 2401(d)) must also occur during the period of Contract performance.
- (3) "Practical Application" means to manufacture in the case of a composition of product, to practice, in the case of a process or method, or to operate, in the case of a machine or system; and, in each case, under such conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are, to the extent permitted by law or Government regulations, available to the public on reasonable terms.
- (4) "Made" when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.
- (5) "Small Business Firm" means a small business concern as defined at Section 2 of Pub. L. 85-536 (15 U.S.C. 632) and implementing regulations of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. For the purpose of this Article, the size standard for small business concerns involved in Government procurement and subcontracting, at 13 CFR 121.3-8 and 13 CFR 121.3-12, respectively, will be used.
- (6) "Nonprofit Organization" means a university or other institution of higher education or an organization of the type described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(a)) or any nonprofit scientific or educational organization qualified under a state nonprofit organization statute.
- (7) "Contracting Officer" has the meaning set forth under (c) of Article GP-1, "Definitions." The Contracting Officer has designated the Patent Counsel and the Technology Utilization Officer, NASA Resident Office, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, California 91109, as the representatives for the administration of the "Patent Rights" Article of this Contract. All correspondence pertaining thereto shall be addressed to the Technology Utilization Officer unless transmitted in response to correspondence from the Patent Counsel. See (f) (5) (A) and (B) below regarding the requirement to send copies of transmittal letters to the JPL Office of Patents and New Technology and to the cognizant JPL negotiator.

- (b) Allocation of Principal Rights. The Contractor may retain the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world to each subject invention subject to the provisions of this Article and 35 U.S.C. 203. With respect to any subject invention in which the Contractor retains title, the Federal Government shall have a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the United States the subject invention throughout the world.

### **(c) Invention Disclosure, Election of Title and Filing of Patent Application by Contractor.**

- (1) The Contractor will disclose each subject invention to the Contracting Officer within two months after the inventor discloses it in writing to Contractor personnel responsible for patent matters. The disclosure to the Contracting Officer shall be in the form of a written report and shall identify the contract under which the invention was made and the inventor(s). It shall be sufficiently complete in technical detail to convey a clear understanding to the extent known at the time of the disclosure, of the nature, purpose, operation, and the physical, chemical, biological or electrical characteristics of the invention. The disclosure shall also identify any publication, on sale or public use of the invention and whether a manuscript describing the invention has been submitted for publication and, if so, whether it has been accepted for publication at the time of disclosure. In addition, after disclosure to the Contracting Officer, the Contractor will promptly notify the Contracting Officer of the acceptance of any manuscript describing the invention for publication or of any on sale or public use planned by the Contractor.
- (2) The Contractor will elect in writing whether or not to retain title to any such invention by notifying NASA within two years of disclosure to NASA. However, in any case where publication, on sale or public use has initiated the one year statutory period wherein valid patent protection can still be obtained in the United States, the period for election of title may be shortened by the Contracting Officer to a date that is no more than 60 days prior to the end of the statutory period.

- (3) The Contractor will file its initial patent application on a subject invention to which it elects to retain title within one year after election of title or, if earlier, prior to the end of any statutory period wherein valid patent protection can be obtained in the United States after a publication, on sale, or public use. The Contractor will file patent applications in additional countries or international patent offices within either 10 months of the corresponding initial patent application or six months from the date permission is granted by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to file foreign patent applications where such filing has been prohibited by a Secrecy Order.
- (4) Requests for extension of the time for disclosure election, and filing under subparagraphs (c)(1), (2), and (3) of this Article, may, at the discretion of the Contracting Officer, be granted.
- (d) Conditions When the Government May Obtain Title. The Contractor will convey to NASA, upon written request, title to any subject invention:
  - (1) If the Contractor fails to disclose or elect title to the subject invention within the times specified in paragraph (c) above, or elects not to retain title; provided that NASA may only request title within 60 days after learning of the Contractor's failure to disclose or elect within the specified times;
  - (2) In those countries in which the Contractor fails to file patent applications within the times specified in paragraph (c) of this Article; provided, however, that if the Contractor has filed a patent application in a country after the time specified in paragraph (c) of this Article but prior to its receipt of the written request of the Contracting Officer, the Contractor shall continue to retain title in that country;
  - (3) In any country in which the Contractor decides not to continue the prosecution of any application for, to pay the maintenance fees on, or defend in re-examination or opposition proceeding on, a patent on a subject invention.
- (e) Minimum Rights to Contractor and Protection of the Contractor Right to File.
  - (1) The Contractor will retain a nonexclusive, royalty-free license throughout the world in each subject invention to which the Government obtains title, except if the Contractor fails to disclose the invention within the times specified in paragraph (c) of this Article. The Contractor's license extends to its domestic subsidiaries and affiliates, if any, within the corporate structure of which the Contractor is a party and includes the right to grant sublicenses of the same scope to the extent the Contractor was legally obligated to do so at the time the Contract was awarded. The license is transferable only with the approval of NASA except when transferred to the successor of that part of the Contractor's business to which the invention pertains.
  - (2) The Contractor's domestic license may be revoked or modified by NASA (the funding Federal agency) to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application of the subject invention pursuant to an application for an exclusive license submitted in accordance with applicable provisions at 37 CFR Part 404 and NASA licensing regulations (if any). This license will not be revoked in that field of use or the geographical areas in which the Contractor has achieved practical application and continues to make the benefits of the invention reasonably accessible to the public. The license in any foreign country may be revoked or modified at the discretion of NASA (the funding Federal agency) to the extent the Contractor, its licensees, or its domestic subsidiaries or affiliates have failed to achieve practical application in that foreign country.
  - (3) Before revocation or modification of the license, NASA (the funding Federal agency) will furnish the Contractor a written notice of its intention to revoke or modify the license, and the Contractor will be allowed 30 days (or such other time as may be authorized by NASA for good cause shown by the Contractor) after the notice to show cause why the license should not be revoked or modified. The Contractor has the right to appeal, in accordance with applicable regulations in 37 CFR Part 404 and NASA licensing regulations (if any) concerning the licensing of Government-owned inventions, any decision concerning the revocation or modification of the license.
- (f) Contractor Action to Protect the Government's Interest.
  - (1) The Contractor agrees to execute or to have executed and promptly deliver to the Contracting Officer all instruments necessary to:
    - (A) Establish or confirm the rights the Government has throughout the world in those subject inventions to which the Contractor elects to retain title; and
    - (B) Convey title to NASA when requested under paragraph (d) of this Article and to enable the Government to obtain patent protection throughout the world in that subject invention.

- (2) The Contractor agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees, other than clerical and nontechnical employees, to disclose promptly in writing to personnel identified as responsible for the administration of patent matters and in a format suggested by the Contractor each subject invention made under Contract in order that the Contractor can comply with the disclosure provisions of paragraph (c) of this Article, and to execute all papers necessary to file patent applications on subject inventions and to establish the Government's rights in the subject inventions. This disclosure format should require, as a minimum, the information required by subparagraph (c)(1) of this Article. The Contractor shall instruct such employees, through employee agreements or suitable educational programs, on the importance of reporting inventions in sufficient time to permit the filing of patent applications prior to United States or foreign statutory bars.
- (3) The Contractor will notify the Contracting Officer of any decision not to continue prosecution of a patent application, pay maintenance fees, or defend in a re-examination or opposition proceeding on a patent, in any country, not less than 30 days before the expiration of the response period required by the relevant patent office.
- (4) The Contractor agrees to include, within the specification of any United States patent application and any patent issuing thereon covering a subject invention, the following statement: "This invention was made with Government support under NASA Prime Contract No. NAS7-1260 and JPL subcontract no. *[Note: Insert number of this JPL Contract]*. The Government has certain rights in the invention."
- (5) The Contractor shall provide the Contracting Officer (A) through (D) below. Copies of transmittal letters for (A) and (B) below shall be sent to the JPL Office of Patents and New Technology (OPANT) and to the cognizant JPL negotiator.
  - (A) A listing every 12 months (or such longer period as the Contracting Officer may specify) from the date of the Contract, of all subject inventions required to be disclosed during the period.
  - (B) A final report prior to closeout of the Contract listing all subject inventions or certifying that there were none.
  - (C) Upon request, the filing date, serial number and title, a copy of the patent application, and patent number and issue date for any subject invention in any country in which the Contractor has applied for patents.
  - (D) An irrevocable power to inspect and make copies of the patent application file, by the Government, when a Federal Government employee is a co-inventor.

(g) Subcontracts.

- (1) The Contractor will include this Article, suitably modified to identify the parties, in all subcontracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental, or research work to be performed by a small business firm or domestic nonprofit organization. The subcontractor will retain all rights provided for the Contractor in this Article, and the Contractor will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the subcontract, obtain rights in the subcontractor's subject inventions.
  - (2) The Contractor shall include the clause in the NASA FAR Supplement at 18-52.227-70, New Technology, suitably modified to identify the parties, in all subcontracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental, research, design, or engineering work to be performed by other than a small business firm or nonprofit organization.
  - (3) In the case of subcontract, at any tier, NASA, the subcontractor, and the Contractor agree that the mutual obligations of the parties created by this Article constitute a contract between the subcontractor and NASA with respect to the matters covered by this Article; provided, however, that nothing in this paragraph is intended to confer any jurisdiction under the Contract Disputes Act in connection with proceedings under paragraph (j) of this Article.
- (h) Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions. The Contractor agrees to submit, on request, periodic reports no more frequently than annually on the utilization of a subject invention or on efforts at obtaining such utilization that are being made by the Contractor or its licensees or assignees. Such reports shall include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the Contractor, and such other data and information as NASA may reasonably specify. The Contractor also agrees to provide additional reports as may be requested by NASA in connection with any march-in proceeding undertaken by NASA in accordance with paragraph (j) of this Article. As required by 35 U.S.C. 202(c)(5), NASA agrees it will not disclose such information to persons outside of the Institute and the Government without permission of the Contractor.

- (i) Preference for United States Industry. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the Contractor agrees that neither it nor any assignee will grant to any person the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the United States unless such person agrees that any product embodying the subject invention or produced through the use of the subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States. However, in individual cases, the requirement for such an agreement may be waived by NASA upon a showing by the Contractor or its assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to grant licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the United States or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.
- (j) March-in Rights. The Contractor agrees that, with respect to any subject invention in which it has acquired title, NASA has the right in accordance with the procedures in 37 CFR 401.6 and any supplemental regulations of NASA to require the Contractor, an assignee or exclusive licensee of a subject invention to grant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license in any field of use to a responsible applicant or applicants, upon terms that are reasonable under the circumstances, and if the Contractor, assignee, or exclusive licensee refuses such a request, NASA has the right to grant such a license itself if NASA determines that:
  - (1) Such action is necessary because the Contractor or assignee has not taken, or is not expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the subject invention in such field of use;
  - (2) Such action is necessary to alleviate health or safety needs which are not reasonably satisfied by the Contractor, assignee, or their licensees;
  - (3) Such action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the Contractor, assignee, or licensees; or
  - (4) Such action is necessary because the agreement required by paragraph (i) of this Article has not been obtained or waived or because a licensee of the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the United States is in breach of such agreement.
- (k) Special Provisions for Contracts with Nonprofit Organizations. If the Contractor is a nonprofit organization, it agrees that:
  - (1) Rights to a subject invention in the United States may not be assigned without the approval of NASA, except where such assignment is made to an organization which has as one of its primary functions the management of inventions; provided, that such assignee will be subject to the same provisions as the Contractor;
  - (2) The Contractor will share royalties collected on a subject invention with the inventor, including Federal employee co-inventors (when NASA deems it appropriate) when the subject invention is assigned in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 202(e) and 37 CFR 401.10;
  - (3) The balance of any royalties or income earned by the Contractor with respect to subject inventions, after payment of expenses (including payments to inventors) incidental to the administration of subject inventions, will be utilized for the support of scientific research or education; and
  - (4) It will make efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to attract licensees of subject inventions that are small business firms, and that it will give a preference to a small business firm when licensing a subject invention if the Contractor determines that the small business firm has a plan or proposal for marketing the invention which, if executed, is equally as likely to bring the invention to practical application as any plans or proposals from applicants that are not small business firms; provided that the Contractor is also satisfied that the small business firm has the capability and resources to carry out its plan or proposal. The decision whether to give a preference in any specific case will be at the discretion of the Contractor. However, the Contractor agrees that the Secretary of Commerce may review the Contractor's licensing program and decisions regarding small business applicants, and the Contractor will negotiate changes to its licensing policies, procedures, or practices with the Secretary of Commerce when the Secretary's review discloses that the Contractor could take reasonable steps to more effectively implement the requirements of this subparagraph (k)(4).
- (l) Communications. The NASA central point of contact for communications or matters relating to this Article is the Contracting Officer.